

ACVFA Working Group Guidance March 2007

Content Guidance:

The Committee's intent is to give advice on lessons learned under 1) the governing justly and democratically and 2) economic growth priority objectives as well as 3) implementation mechanisms.

Public Comment:

Interested parties are encouraged to go to the ACVFA work group public comment web site to provide input and feedback:

www.usaid.gov/about_acvfa/acvfaworkgroups

Working Groups will be provided with feedback from the general public via the ACVFA web site. The draft documents will also be posted for comment in mid to late April.

#1 and #2:

The first two working groups are asked to give succinct examples of types of strategies and programs that are appropriate for the various country classifications in the Framework for Foreign Assistance matrix (<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/79748.pdf>). Also, the working groups are asked to review the paper on definitions (<http://www.state.gov/f/releases/factsheets2006/79645.htm>) and offer insights on (a) the definitions of program approaches and (b) any missing or understated types of programs. For example, the working group might look at the definitions of civil society offered under Program Area 4 in the Governing Justly and Democratically Category and review these for completeness and linkages to other Program Areas with examples of lessons learned. .

Finally, if the working groups could give any recommendations on priorities for the various categories of countries under each objective that would be extremely helpful. For example, what is the key priority(s) for starting economic growth in rebuilding countries, developing countries, etc. Finally, any comments on how the category and specific programs or lessons learned

are related to other categories would be very helpful in dealing with the "stovepipe issue."

#3:

According to government regulations, USAID uses an acquisition mechanism (a contract) when a project's principle purpose is the acquirement of property or services for the direct benefit or use of USAID and/or programs where it is anticipated that USAID will exercise operational control, including day-to-day oversight of the implementation of the program. On the other hand, USAID uses assistance mechanisms (grants and cooperative agreements) to transfer money, property, or services in order to accomplish a public purpose of support authorized by federal statute. In essence, an acquisition mechanism is used to fund "government-run programs," while an assistance mechanism is used to fund "government-supported" programs, a distinction that is critically important when it comes to the implementation certain types of development programs.

The choice of a funding vehicle can affect the very nature of a program, and can influence program results and the contribution to sustainable development in the recipient country.

ACVFA members recognize the growing trend toward the use of acquisition mechanisms and the lack of principles guiding the selection of acquisition and assistance mechanisms. The working group will recommend circumstances in which they believe particular mechanisms can best be used.